

BANGLADESH

IN 2014

PROGRESS and DEVELOPMENT



Bangladesh: The Land of Impossible Attainments



Reduced poverty
from 57% to
24.8%

Achieved MDG
Targets 1 to 6

Achieved 6.2
percent GDP in
last 6 years

Near 50 million people
have been lifted from
the low-income group to
middle-income one

5,247 Digital Centers
have been established
to provide 200 services
to the people

12.8 million poor &
meritorious students
are being provided with
stipends

318 million free
textbooks have been
provided upto
secondary level

13,500 community
health clinics & 1,500
Union Health Centers
have been established
along with free
medicines to the rural
people

National Climate
Change Strategy & a
National Action Plan
have been undertaken

National Economic Growth & Poverty Reduction

Amid global recession, Bangladesh has been able to keep a consistent rate of growth over 6 (six) percent. Yearly development expenses increased to 8.8 billion in 2013-14 from 3 billion dollar in 2007-08 fiscal year. Accordingly, the Annual Development Program (ADP) implementation rate has been increased to 97%. Inflation has been decreased to 6.97% from 13% in 2008.

Reserve US\$ 22.39 billion

GDP consistency over 6%

ADP implementation 97%

Per capita income US\$ 1190



Foreign exchange reserve stands at US\$ 22.39 billion (till 18 December 2014), highest in the history of Bangladesh. Domestic and national savings stand at 23.43% and 30.54% respectively in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14. Total remittance in FY 2013-14 stands at US\$ 14.22 billion. In 2013, World Bank ranked Bangladesh as Eighth top remittance receiving country in the world. Inflows of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) rose 24 per cent year-on-year to US\$ 1.6 billion last year. Revenue has been doubled. In 2013-14, export earnings crossed US\$ 30 billion-mark for the first time. Investment in the FY 2013-14 stands at 28.69% in which private investment contributes 21.30% and public investment contributes 7.30%.

The advancement of national economy has brought about a far reaching effect on all other sectors. The per capita income and per capita GDP stands respectively at US\$ 1190 and US\$ 1115. Our Budget deficiency is now 5 % less from the GDP. Most importantly, we see astonishing reduction of poverty from 57 percent in 1991 to 24.8 percent at present.

Poverty Reduction: Recent Progress

Bangladesh turned into “the land of impossible attainments” for eradicating poverty. In 2009, total number of poor people stands around 5 crore (50 million). Of them 28.8 million were extreme poor. Now, the number of poor people lowered to around 38.05 million. Extremely poor people came down to 15.07 million respectively; 45 percent of those extreme poor were pulled out of poverty within the last 5 years. Achieved the targets meant for a hunger and poverty-free society under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This spectacular change in the poverty discourse of the country is the result of the visionary steps of the government. The Budget proposal of current fiscal year contains various poverty alleviation programs worth BDT 15 billion to eradicate extreme poverty. Around 24.57 percent families of the country have been brought under the coverage of social safety net program.



Building Digital Bangladesh

In 2009, Bangladesh has started a journey to cope with the technological advancement around the globe. In 2014, the country has come a long way towards 'Digital Bangladesh'. Till November, 2014, more than 119 million people (constituting 75% of population) are connected with mobile network and 48.4 million people are using internet. Just five years ago, there were only 5 million dollars revenue in IT sector. It now stands at \$ 125 million, an increase of 5 times.

Digital Centers

Digital centers are aimed to provide basic IT services to peoples' doorstep. There are 5247 digital centers which are functioning in every corner of Bangladesh. People can get services like university admission, birth and death registration, visa processing, computer training, mobile banking, information on employment, livelihood, browsing internet, and other mobile services. Around 7 million online birth registration has been made possible due to the digital service.

ICT in Education

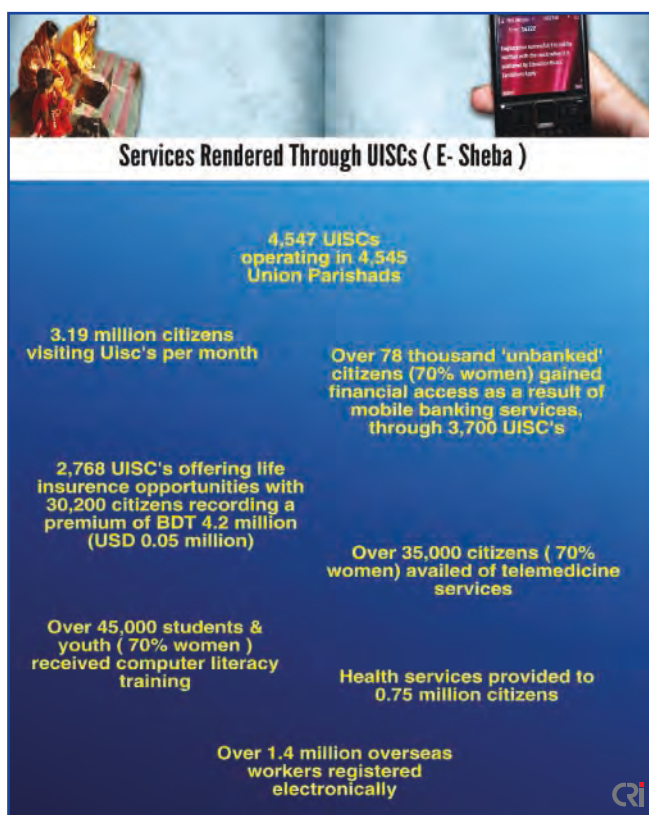
24,200 multimedia classrooms established

12,000 IT-skilled teachers recruited

13,500 e-content for teachers

300 e-textbooks made available

55 million public exam results through SMS



Information and Utility Services

More than 23 million utility bills have been paid through mobile phones and online services. For tax-paying citizens, National Board of Revenue (NBR) initiated E-TIN(Tax Identification Number) service. Already 600,000 tax payers have registered in this service. To wipe out corruption, government has initiated E-procurement system. By 2015, every ministry will adopt the service.

ICT Industry and Governance

Government has initiated 'Leveraging ICT' project which has been training 34,000 women in ICT skills. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) has formulated a centralised database which will provide 152 types of information on 40,000 criminals. Government is aiming to create 70,000 freelancers through 'Learning and Earning' project. Currently Bangladesh is standing in third position worldwide in providing services through oDesk.

ICT in Agriculture

Agriculture is the key to Bangladesh's development and government is dedicated to modernize the sector through ICT. Agriculture information, online fertilizer recommendation, cultivation related information are available through mobile phone services.

ICT in Healthcare

Medical services through mobile phone initiated in 482 public hospitals

Medical service through Skype in 12584 community clinics

Power for Growth

“Electricity for all by 2021” – an electoral pledge made by Bangladesh Awami League has been turning into a reality. In 2014, the power generation capacity stood at 11,265MW with around 68% of the population having access to electricity. Relentless monitoring over implementation of long term, mid-term and emergency measures has led the government to achieve landmark progress in realizing its target to make Bangladesh a complete power hub.

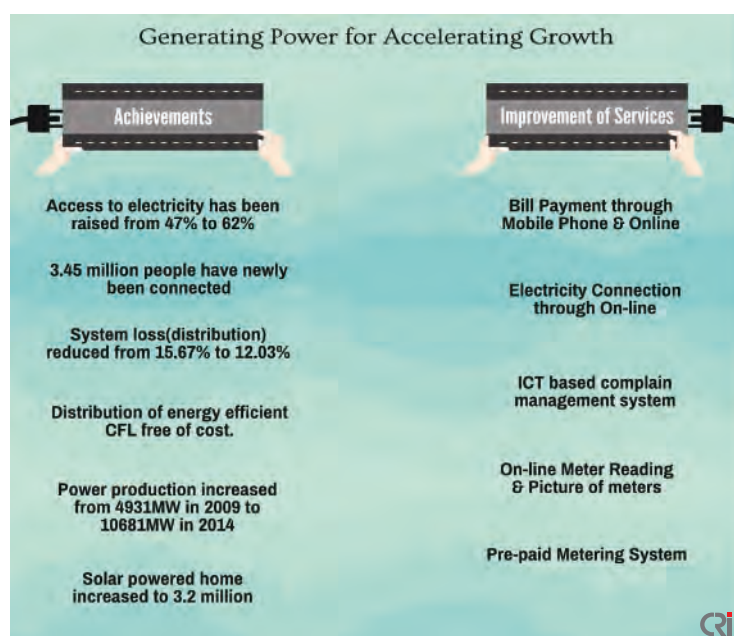
Government has prepared the Power System Master Plan 2010 (PSMP 2010). According to the PSMP 2010 the estimated demand for power would be 19,000 MW in 2021 and 34,000 MW in 2030. Electricity production target has been set to 16000MW by 2016 and 20000MW by 2021.

Power Generation capacity 11,265MW

Access to electricity 68% people

Production target 20000MW by 2021

Twenty Two (22) projects with a capacity of about 5,272 MW are under tendering process, 33 plants with a capacity of 6,986 MW are under construction, 63 plants with a capacity of about 4,915 MW have been commissioned. Access to electricity has been raised from 47% to 68% (including Renewable Energy) and per capita electricity generation improved dramatically (from 220 kWh to 321 kWh). Around 3.45 million people have newly been connected and System Loss (distribution) reduced from 15.67% to 12.03%. Highest generation so far was 7356 MW recorded on March 30, 2014, and it is increasing gradually.



The government is importing 500MW electricity from India through Bharamara and saving BDT 40 million a year. Another 100MW import is on process. Construction process of the country's first coal fired 1200MW power plant using modern critical technology by spending BDT 400 billion. Another coal based thermal 1230MW power plant construction spending BDT 145.84 billion in Rampal in Bagerhat is on process. Two separate nuclear power plant construction in Rooppur of 1000MW each are on process. The construction is expected to be finished by 2020.

Future Plans

The target to actively develop domestic primary energy resources is set to maintain domestic primary energy supply over 50%. The target has been set to achieve the following fuel consumption ratio for 2030: coal (50%); natural gas (25%); and others (25%).

The following also will further this aim: construction of coal power stations; introduction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities; construction of oil fired power stations; importing electricity generated by hydro power from neighboring countries or joint development; development of domestic renewable energy (wind and solar).

The target has been set to achieve 16,000 MW power by 2016, and 20,000 MW power by 2021 to build an efficient and effective mechanism, organizations and regulations for stable power supply.

Utilization of Green Energy

Bangladesh has the world's fastest growing Solar Home System (SHS) with over one million homes covered under the program being spearheaded by Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), a public infrastructure financing entity.

Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority Act-2012 has been enacted to set up nodal organization for renewable and energy efficiency issues.



The government envisages that at least 500 MW of such power should come from solar sources. Bangladesh Bank has formulated and issued “Environmental Risk Management Guidelines” and “Policy Guidelines for Green Banking” for all banks and financial institutions which provide instructions to finance solar energy, bio-gas plant, ETP and Hybrid Hoffman Kiln (HHK).

The current major solar energy projects which the government of Bangladesh is implementing include: 8 MW Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant at Kaptai Hydro Power Station, at Rangamati on turnkey basis; 3 MW Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant at Sharishabari, Jamalpur on IPP basis and 30 MW Solar Park Project adjacent to new Dhorola Bridge, Kurigram on IPP (Independent Power Producer) basis.

Wind not Far Behind

Very recently, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) signed a deal with US DK Energy (BD) Ltd. for construction of a 60 MW wind power plant at Cox's Bazar district.

It is estimated that the country's 740 square kilometer coastal belt can produce as much as 20,000 MW of electricity if the potential of wind can be harnessed by adopting requisite measures.

Recent Initiatives in Renewable Energy

IDCOL through different NGO has already distributed 3 million SHS throughout the country. BPDB is in the process of developing grid tie solar parks at different locations in IPP model. Five locations have already been identified where total 143 MW capacity solar parks can be developed.

BPDB has already installed nearly 11 KW solar power to the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts) area, nearly 230 W solar power in Angorpot and Dahagram Chitmahal Area and installed 115W at their office building. Solar PV with capacity of 21.2 KW has been installed at the honorable Prime Minister's office as a demonstration program.

A 5 MW Power plant in combination with 2.2MW solar hybrid system along with 2MW by diesel, and wind will be set up in Hatia island. Another 7.4MW Solar PV plant will be installed in Kaptai. Some roads of six City Corporation areas will be replaced by Solar Street lights; 40 irrigation pumps has brought under solar power under this project.

Infrastructural Development: Transport Systems

Over the last six years, the government has embarked on large infrastructure projects in a bid to lift national income, create employment opportunities, raise productivity and most importantly to turn the country in to a middle income one by 2021.



To minimize severe traffic congestion of Dhaka city the government has allocated BDT 89.4 billion to construct a 46.73 km long Elevated Express Highway.

Taking a giant leap forward, the Cabinet approved the draft of the Metro Rail Bill 2014, which deals with land acquisition, operation and control of the project. The project cost has been estimated at around BDT 220 billion, of which the government will bear BDT 54 billion and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) BDT 165 billion.

Bangladesh entered into a BDT 3,830 million deal with a joint venture of six companies for the supervision consultancy job of the much awaited Padma Bridge Project.

Important Projects under Roads Divisions

The government has undertaken a project to construct the 13 km long Shantinagar-Jhilmil Flyover at a cost of US\$ 128.1 million with a view to establishing a direct and uninterrupted link with the capital Dhaka.

Other projects include 4-Laning of Nabinagar-Chandra-DEPZ Road; Development of District Roads (RHD's 8 Zones); Eastern Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project (EBBIP); 4-Laning of Dhaka-Chittagong National Highway Road (Daudkandi-Chittagong Section); 4-Laning of Joydevpur-Mymensingh Road; Pirojpur-Gopalganj Road Development including construction of Sheikh Lutfor Rahman Bridge.

Dhaka - Chittagong direct rail service was launched

New passenger vessel, MV Bangali was commissioned

84 new trains introduced, 24 train service extended, 20 set DEMU trains employed since 2009

Procurement of Single Decker (AC), Double Decker and Articulated buses through Indian Dollar Credit Line Project, 2nd Sitalakhya Bridge, 3rd Buriganga bridge, Dapdapia bridge, 3rd Karnafuly Bridge and Tista Bridge.

Connecting International Communities

In a momentous feat, Bangladesh and 21 other Asian countries signed the intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The Asian Development Bank will provide \$492 million for infrastructure development in Bangladesh over the next three years to help boost regional cooperation.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government signed an agreement for a \$100 million loan to help improve the capacity, efficiency and safety of railway systems in Bangladesh. The government signed a BDT 340 crore (\$44 million) loan contract with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to install the second submarine cable for the country. The cabinet also approved the draft of a motor vehicle agreement aimed at enabling free movement of vehicles among SAARC member states.

Evolutionary Progress in RMG Sector

Bangladesh has emerged as the second largest apparel exporter with a whopping US \$ 25 billion export industry employing nearly 4.4 billion workers. In 2014, the garments export reached to \$24.5 billion, contributing 81.13% to the country's total export earnings.

The McKinsey & Company, a global management consultancy firm, predicted that Bangladesh will be able to export \$44.56 billion worth of garment products by the end of 2020.

Visionary Government Policies Lead to the Astonishing Growth

The present government is working to build 18 more economic zones and a 'garment village' in Munshiganj. Tax at source was reduced to 0.30% from 0.80% for garment exporters. Fresh 2 percent cash incentive has been offered to exporters for exporting to the new destinations. Apparel makers got 5 percent cash benefits against their export proceeds if sent through telegraphic transfer (TT). Four state owned banks offered loans worth BDT 112.75 billion in 2013-14.



Fuelled by a booming turnaround in the last fiscal year, Bangladesh's apparel sector is now set to take the next giant leap. And first ever in its history, the county exporters hosted an apparel summit where they set the target to hit US\$50 billion garment exports by 2021.

On July 7, 2014, the cabinet approved the draft “Bangladesh EPZ Labor Law-2014”. The fire service department has been providing training for mid level factory supervisors. The cabinet committee for RMG sector so far formed one task force on “Building Fire Safety in RMG sector” headed by one joint secretary of Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE). The MoLE has recruited 67 inspectors so far.

Representatives of BKMEA (Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association), BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association) and MoLE have inspected some 1720 export oriented RMG factories. In accordance with the recommendation of the team, a total of 17 factories have been shut down. In June, 2014, 14 more factories have been surveyed, while 218 concerned officials have been trained. On March 30, 2014, a worker data base has been created. Fire service and Directorate of Civil Defense has already established a hot link for quick response.

International Agencies Applaud Bangladesh's Work Safety Progress

In a jointly organized discussion (by the Labor Ministry of BD and the ILO), titled ‘One Year after Rana Plaza: Progress and Way Forward’, international agencies and representatives from USA, Canada, ILO, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have admired the improvements in the readymade garments sector made in the year since the Rana Plaza disaster, and expressed their anticipation that Bangladesh would be on right track to achieve a strong, dynamic, profitable garment industry.

Development of Basic Education: Reforms towards Knowledge Society

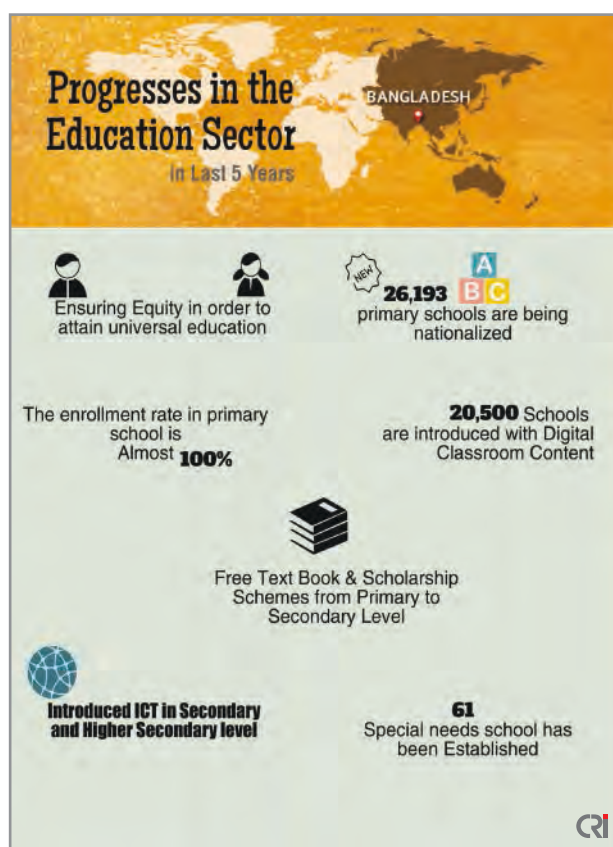
Rate of Education of the country is now around 65%, and rate of school going children is almost 100%.

Nationalizing 26,193 primary schools, setting up digital classroom in 23,300 educational institutions, introducing pre-primary system, reforming curriculum after 17 years, new buildings in 1000 Madrasha, establishing 35 new model Madrasha, providing food for 2.7 million children under the school feeding program are some monumental steps taken by the government for building a knowledge society.

The National Education Policy-2010 (NEP) gives utmost significance to pre-primary education. All 5 year old children are being brought under this scheme, with the plans to include 4 year olds too. The NEP advises the government to start pre-primary education in all schools. The NEP asks for more teachers to be recruited and increasing the number of classrooms. The process of implementation has already been started in phases.

Free Text Book Distribution

In terms of free textbook distribution, in 2014, the government has taken an astonishing preparation for the academic year 2015. From pre-primary to class nine 4,44,52374 students will get 32,63,47923 textbooks for free. Besides that, for the first time ever, all the visually handicapped children will get Braille based textbooks for free for class one to nine.



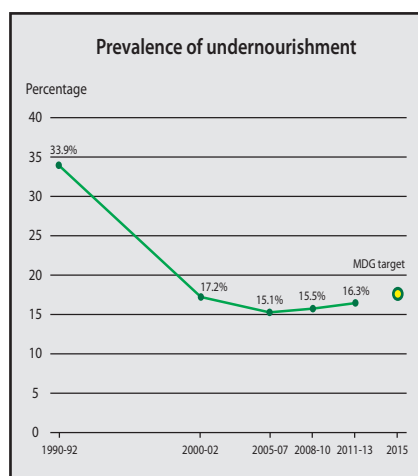
Food Security & Agriculture

Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in food. Now, the country has a stock of 1.13 ton of rice and a wheat stock of 2,26,713 tons which is 300,000 tons more than the previous year. The country didn't import a bit of rice for her people in the last 5 years. Hectar wise production of rice wheat and maize has crossed the global average growth. Bangladesh is now an example for multiple cropping in a single land, to the world.

Stands 4th in the rice production
Surplus of rice is 7.6 million MT
Sgro-food production is 3.68 million
4th in fish production in world
Fish export increased 135%

Currently the surplus of rice is around 7.6 million metric ton (MT). The government has raised the rice production to 31.32 million MT. The rice production of both 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 were above 33 million MT which is so far the highest record of rice production in Bangladesh. It is projected that Bangladesh will be able to supply its own cereal grain at least till 2020.

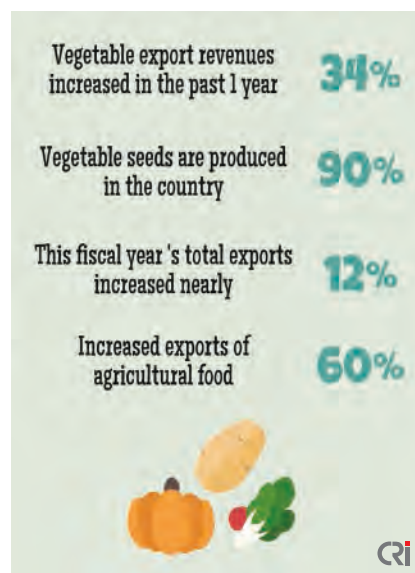
The amount of agro-food production is 3.68 million tons in 2014. The 'Karthik Monga' (Seasonal Famine) of Bangladesh is vanished now. The average corn production in Bangladesh is 6.98 tons whereas the global average rate for the same is 5.12 tons. The country stands in the top 10 countries in terms of producing potatoes.



in 1990-92 the undernourishment rate was 33.9%; now it stands on 16.3%

Due to the immense growth in food production, Bangladesh stands now in a good position in the world hunger index of South Asia. In just one year, the country has progressed 11 steps in terms of hunger.

According to a latest report of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Bangladesh is now the fourth major fish producing country in the world. Steady growth in inland fish production from 0.75 MT to 3.5 million MT in last three decades helped Bangladesh achieve the status. With the protection of Hilsa fries and other initiatives, production of the country's most popular fish Hilsa has gone up from 52,000 tons to 350,000 tons. Fish exports increased 135 times.



Exertions Worked behind the Achievements

Modern varieties have been introduced on 75% of the total rice cropped area. Agricultural call centers have been set up for the first time in Bangladesh, providing consultancy services for all agricultural information to the people. 16123 is the hot line number of this call centre.

Establishment of the largest seed growing, development of high-yield new species, distribution of drought tolerant new rice "Narika", increasing irrigation by using surface water, agricultural mechanization, formulation of E-agriculture or digital agricultural management and crop zoning map, development of SAARC seed bank, formulation of National Agriculture Policy 2013, increasing agriculture loan and subsidies are some of the major steps taken by the government to achieve such status of self sufficiency in food.



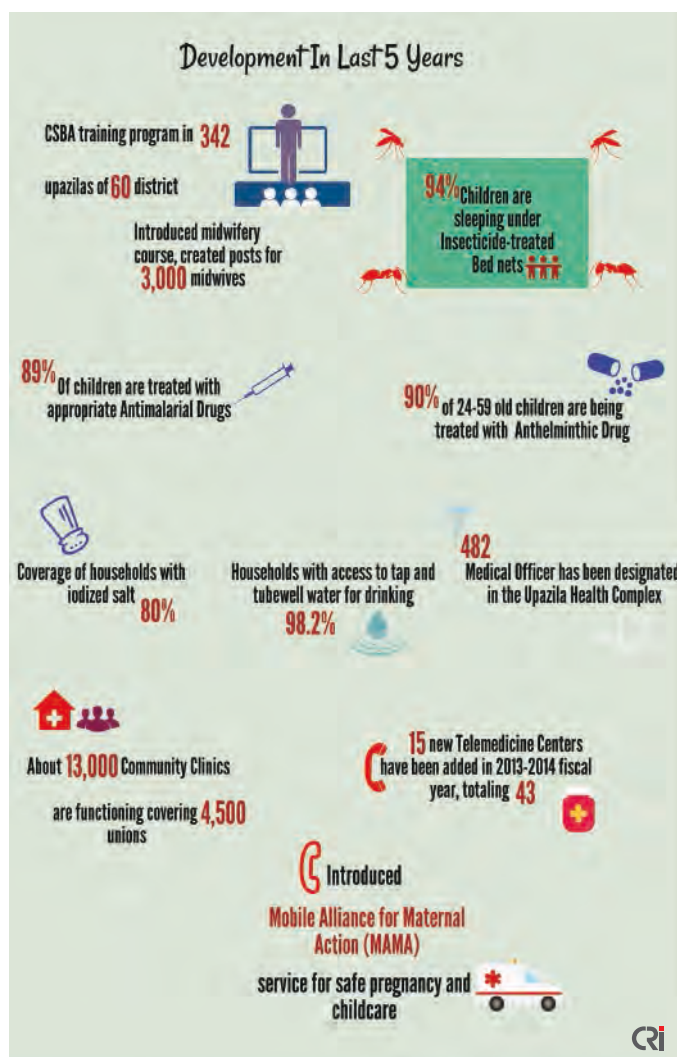
Ensuring Healthcare Services for All

Developing an intricate countrywide healthcare network through nearly 13,500 community health clinics and 1500 union health centers is a milestone for Bangladesh. By April 2014, all community clinics received internet connection along with a laptop. Community clinics provide telemedicine service, community health education, and certain other ICT-based health solutions. The government has also newly appointed 6,221 doctors to ensure health services at everyone's door.

In terms of fulfilling MDG Goal 4,5,6 the country stands on the right track to achieve the target set under under-five mortality rate, infant mortality rate and immunization against measles. Bangladesh has already met the target of reducing under-five mortality rate: against the target of achieving 48 per 1000 live births in 2015, it has already achieved 41 per 1000 live births in 2013 (World Bank Data). The current infant mortality rate in Bangladesh is 33 per 1000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate is 24 per 1000 live births (Unicef Report-2013).

Under-five mortality rate 41
Infant mortality rate 33
Maternal mortality rate 170
Measles vaccination 86%
Life Expectancy 69 years
Population growth rate 1.36

Maternal mortality declined from 322 in 2001 to 170 now, and the country is going with 3.3 percent yearly declination rate against 3.0 percent set for achieving the MDG in 2015. The current coverage of measles vaccination was 86%.



Bangladesh has performed well in halting communicable diseases, as well as Prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh currently is less than 0.1 percent and below an epidemic level.

Taking country's 82% children under the immunization program was a big achievement, which is highest in South Asia. Through the achievement of this program we have scored the MDG-4 Goal too, requirement of which was the mortality rates of the children. In February, 2014, the country has also obtained the polio-free certification by WHO. Most importantly, because of all these initiatives, now the life expectancy rate at birth has turned into 69 years.

Bangladesh has made remarkable success in terms of assuring Safe Drinking Water and Sanitization facilities. Use of waters (tap and tube-well) of the people of the country now 98.3%. The use of sanitary latrines raised up to 63.8%.

First ever bone marrow transplant operation was successfully done in this regime of the government. Specialized treatment facilities have been started for the children with faults in their hearts. A Children's Cardiac Lab has been initiated at the Bangabandhu Medical Hospital.

Safety Net Programs and Social Progress



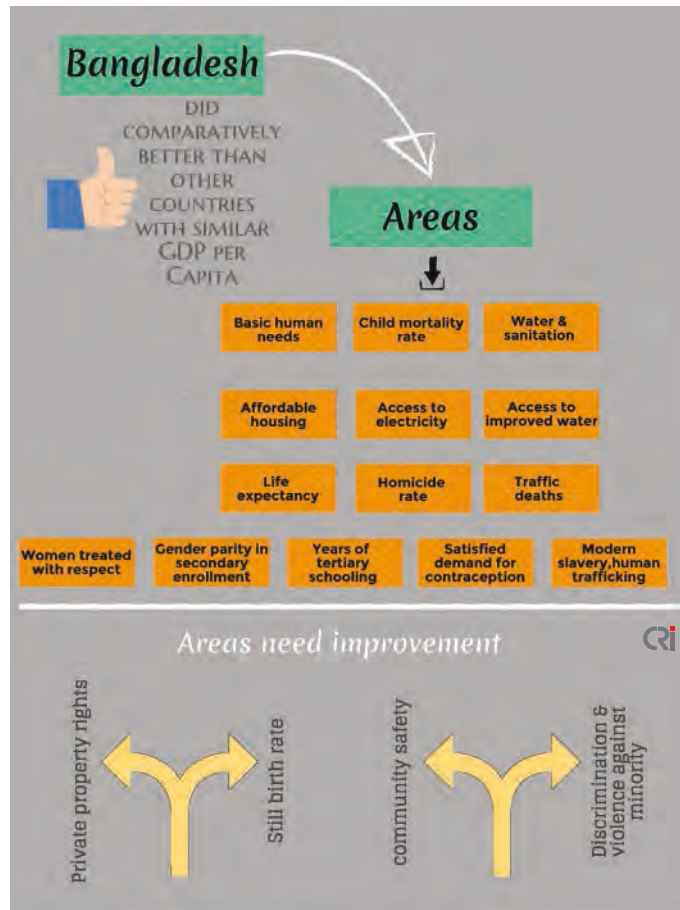
A total of 128 social security programs are ongoing for the FY 2014-15, worth BDT 307.51 billion. The per capita income of the direct beneficiaries of these programs has increased from 14.5 to 28 percent. It accelerated women's empowerment through the financial strength of women beneficiaries. Alongside, the food needs of impoverished children have been met.

In the FY 2014-15 the number of beneficiaries under the program 'Insolvent Disability Allowance' increased to 400,000 from 314,600. Monthly allowances for elderly widows and divorced distressed women increased to BDT 400 (US \$ 5.12) from BDT 300 (US \$ 3.84).

Two new programs have been undertaken for marginalized groups, hermaphrodite (Hijda), Dalit (untouchables), Gypsy (Bede) and Harijan communities (Cleaners) for their development of quality of life and their social security. Transgender communities has been recognized by the government as 'third gender'.

Social Progress Imperative (SPI) terms Bangladesh another 'development surprise' in the SAARC region in terms of social progress. Washington-based non-profit organization Social Progress Imperative (SPI) ranked Bangladesh 99 among 132 countries, second in South Asia.

Bangladesh consistently upheld both economic and social ladders concurrently. The present government oversaw Bangladesh taking landmark strides in socio-economic advancement.



Commendable Progress in Labor Standards

“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did the right thing to press ahead with necessary reforms in the clothing sector to improve labor rights and safety”, opined the Dutch Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation minister Lilianne Ploumen. The present Government of Bangladesh has taken a number of firm efforts which have already yielded some significant changes in the apparel sector.

Firm Efforts Taken by the Government

The enactment of the Bangladesh Labor (Amendment) Act 2013, which amended several provisions of the Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 and the formulation of the Bangladesh Labor Policy 2012. In addition, the government approved the draft “Bangladesh EPZ Labor Law-2014”.

In order to make the law time-befitting, a total of 87 sections of the 2006 Labor Act have been amended. Till June 2014, a total of 203 trade unions have been registered since January 2013.

*Minimum wage raised by 77%;
from 1600 tk (20 \$) to 5300 tk (66 \$)
6 months maternal leave approved
203 trade unions registered
First phase insurance for the
RMG workers*



On March 30, 2014, a worker data base has been created.

Government's Establishment of Labor Management committee on occupational safety and health and fire safety has been included in the Bangladesh Labor amendment act 2013. To formulate necessary rules of the act, a committee headed by the Ministry of Labor& Employment (MoLE) has been formed.

Low wage of the garment workers was a burning issue in Bangladesh as the workers and employees couldn't come to an agreement despite several rounds of talks over the years. To avoid conflicts and stalemate situations, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came forward and raised the minimum wage of workers. Besides that the women workforce now has the right of 6 months of maternal leave.

The cabinet committee for RMG sector so far formed one task force responsible for “Building Fire Safety in RMG sector” headed by one joint secretary of Ministry of Labor and Employment.

To ensure the timely development of a National Tripartite Plan of Action, the MoLE established a tripartite committee, which met four times with the assistance of ILO. Bangladesh, the EU and the ILO have adopted 'Sustainability Compact' (endorsed by the USA too) with a view to taking joint initiatives to improve labor welfare and safety.

To implement the newly enacted Labor Law an inter-ministerial committee, headed by the senior secretary of the office of the Prime Minister, has been formed to monitor implementation of the labor law.

World Recognizing the Progress Made

The European Union has found “significant progress” being made in factory safety and labor rights within a year of Bangladesh's worst-ever building collapse. John Clancy, spokesperson of EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht praises the endeavors of Bangladesh in improving the quality of factory safety and labor right issues and expects more to be done to sustain the progress. Acclaiming Bangladesh Donald P Bliss, vice president of National Fire Protection Association, an American trade body and a partner of the Alliance on fire safety recently commented that “We have seen amazing commitments from the government, factory owners and buyers to ensure workplace safety in Bangladesh”.

Development of Women Empowerment

Bangladesh has successfully reduced the 'gender gap' by increasing Economy, education, health and employment opportunities for women. According to the Global Gender Gap Report-2014 of World Economic Forum (WEF), Bangladesh now stands at 68 among 142 countries, the position was 75 in 2013.

Extensive social safety net programs undertaken to provide various kinds of allowances, such as destitute women allowance, maternity and lactating mother allowance, disabled women allowance, divorced women allowance and many others.

Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) is carried out for ensuring food security to vulnerable extreme poor women.

For the economic empowerment of rural women, collateral free micro-credit is given with 5% service charge.

The government extended maternity leave for expecting mothers from four months to six months. Maternal mortality rate (MMR) has declined by more than 66% over the last two decades and is dropping around 5.5% each year which makes Bangladesh highly likely to achieve the target of 143 deaths per 100,000 live births under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015. This is made possible through establishing Model women friendly district hospitals, providing Maternal Health Voucher Schemes Package containing three ante-natal checkups, safe delivery under skilled birth attendants, one post-natal checkup and transport cost.

Women entrepreneurs receive 10% of the Small Enterprise Fund and 10% industrial plots. Currently more than 3 million women are working in the RMG sector alone.

Bangladesh has enhanced its women labor force from 24% in 2010 to 36% in 2013. Like the year before, gender sensitive budgets were prepared for 40 ministries in the recently passed Budget 2014-15, and a special allocation of BDT One billion was provided for development of women.

The number of seats reserved for women in the National Parliament have been increased by 5, and made 50. In the last national election the number of elected women parliamentarians sharply increased (20% of total seats). More than 12,000 women were elected as public representatives in the last round of local government elections.

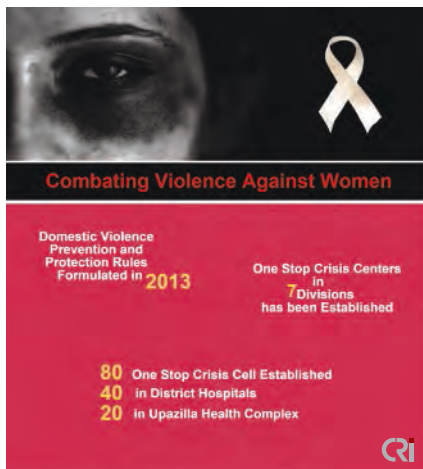
Now, around 190 female officers from Bangladesh are working in different peace keeping missions around the world. Increasing number of women was employed as the Justices of the Supreme Court, top positions of the administration.



Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

- Collateral free Micro-Credit with 5% service charge ✓
- 10% of the Small Enterprise Fund and 10% industrial plots for Women entrepreneurs ✓
- Enhanced Women labor force from 24% in 2010 to 36% in 2013 ✓
- Special allocation of TK.1 billion for the development of Women ✓
- "One House, One Farm Project" for the female households in every village ✓

CR



Combating Violence Against Women

Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Rules Formulated in **2013**

One Stop Crisis Centers in **7** Divisions has been Established

80 One Stop Crisis Cell Established
40 in District Hospitals
20 in Upazilla Health Complex

CR



Coherent Development: Instances from Other Areas

Effective Counter Terrorism

Enacted the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012

Effective steps to curb terrorism financing by the financial intelligence unit of Bangladesh Bank

Enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance Act 2012

The Government of Bangladesh has demonstrated political will and firm commitment to combat domestic and transnational terrorist groups, and its counter terrorism efforts made it harder for terrorists to operate or establish safe havens in Bangladesh.

In 2012, the government enacted the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012, which is the first legislation in Bangladesh making specific provisions for money laundering and terrorism financing. The Financial Intelligence Unit of the Bangladesh Bank has taken effective steps to curb terrorism financing.

The government is integrating the civil society, NGOs and media in strengthening its campaign against terrorism and militancy. In 2010, the government formulated a strong anti militancy National Education Policy, reforming the Madrasha curriculum.

In 2012, Bangladesh enacted the Mutual Legal Assistance Act 2012. Bangladesh and India signed an extradition treaty for disrupting the regional connections and networks among terrorist outfits in South Asia. Bangladesh signed an agreement with the USA aiming to enhance counterterrorism cooperation.

Growth of Youth Entrepreneurship

The government has set up national action plan for young entrepreneurs. SME foundation has been coordinating numerous programs for upgrading the skills of SME entrepreneurs. SME entrepreneurs are getting collateral free loan at 9% interest rate. Small and Cottage Industries Training Institute (SCITI) has imparted training to about 40,000 persons. Bangladesh Bank has recently announced the introduction of a refinance scheme worth BDT 1 billion to boost the entrepreneur development project initiated by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Allocation of 15 percent refinance fund to women entrepreneurs.

In addition, Bangladesh and North Korea signed Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) to enhance cultural bond between the two countries.

National action plan for young entrepreneurs

SCITI imparted training to about 40,000 persons

Allocation of 15% refinance fund to women entrepreneurs

Collateral free loan by SME foundation at 9% interest rate to the SME entrepreneurs

Triumph in Sports and Culture

Inauguration of the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium

Hosted the men's and women's ICC World T20 cricket Championships

The renovation and preservation work of the age old Barisal district

45% progress on the project to conserve artifacts in Dhaka Division

Achievements in Sports

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. For three weeks, Bangladesh was the epicenter of the cricket world as it hosted the men's and women's ICC World T20 cricket Championships. The twelfth edition of Asia Cup cricket tournament took place in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh bagged victory during the Zimbabwe tour in the country whitewashing the visitors during the Test and One Day series. At the Asian game, Bangladesh women's cricket team clinched silver medal while the men's cricket team bronze medal while men's team grabbed bronze medal. Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club clinched the title of King's Cup.

Cultural Initiative

Modernization works of Public Library Department saw 75 percent progress; 61 percent progress on enhancing the skills of National Library staff; 50 percent progress in the project aiming to increase skills of handcraft artists; 45

percent progress on the project to conserve artifacts in Dhaka division; and 59 percent work to set up separate public libraries has been completed.

Exemplary Steps in Autism & Disability Issue

Enacting The Disability Rights Law, 2013

Neuro- Developmental Disability Protection Trust Act, 2013

Providing therapeutic services to nearly 30,000 individuals

Introducing 'One Stop Mobile Service' program

73 Disability service centers are functioning in district and upazila level

Saima Wazed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has won the South-East Asia Region Award for Excellence in Public Health, for her contributions to the fight against neuro-development disorder and autism. This year, Bangladesh launched a global initiative to address the challenges of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) in the South-East Asia Region of World Health Organization. The present government significantly enacted The Disability Rights Law, 2013, and Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust Act, 2013, ensuring equal representation of physically challenged people.

Major Public Reforms Accomplished

Providing physiotherapy, occupational therapy, counseling, assistive devices and other related services to nearly 30,000 individuals many of whom are diagnosed with autism. Riding on the back of government led initiatives, the country boasts of as many as 3676 doctors, 270 Physiotherapists, 480 nurses, 186 special educators and 2575 health workers offering services. 'One Stop

Mobile Service' program has also been introduced. TK 200 million has been allocated to the trust established for people with neurodevelopment disorders. The Physically Disabled Fund received TK 50 million allocations. Children with autism gets 2% reserved seats in academic institutions. An additional twenty minutes offered to the autistic children in public examinations. 73 disability service centers are functioning in district and sub-district level. Autism has been incorporated in the primary education curriculum.

Strides in Disaster Management & Climate Change

"Bangladesh imparted disaster preparedness training to 62,000 people at rural level and keep 25,000 community volunteers standby to act promptly just after any disaster. This initiative can be followed by other disaster prone countries" commented United Nations (UN) Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon at a high-level briefing to member states on the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at UN headquarters.

Monumental Strides in Implementing Preparedness Policies

In 2014, a "Flood Response Preparedness Plan" and "Emergency preparedness plan for cyclone" were formulated. Currently 31 active rescue boats are available with capacity to accommodate 25 to 30 people during flood crisis. 1741 cyclone centers have been set up. All district and Upazila level health centers have emergency stock of 44 essential life -saving drugs and medicine for any emergency response. Construction of 1518 culverts or bridges in 2013-14 across the country completed, National Health Crisis Management Centre and Control Room has been set up, Surveillance Medical Teams with necessary equipment are also in place. Under VGF programme 2000 MT food grains have been allocated, Cash around BDT 2.8 million and house building grant 1500 bundle were provided as assistance to turn around lives of northwester hit people. Inclusion of Disaster Management as courses in as many as 17 universities has been approved. 74 new flood shelter centers were set up. The government undertook a project to provide training to 2100 construction workers.

Disaster preparedness training to 62,000 people at rural level

25,000 Community volunteers

44 Essential life -saving drugs and medicine for any emergency response

74 New flood shelter centers were set up




National Health Crisis Management Centre and Control Room has been set up

The government adopted Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Inclusion of Disaster Management courses in as many as 17 universities



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